

The Sun.
WILLIAM M. LAFAN.
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Mr. Bryan and the Moral Issue.

The Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN has hired the concert hall of Madison Square Garden for to-morrow night, when he will talk of "The Moral Issue." It is "involved in pending public questions." Box seats reserved for such clergymen as make application in writing or at the box office up to noon Tuesday. Feeling that the clergy are not doing their duty, Mr. BRYAN has modestly decided "to get them aroused to the importance of awakening the moral idea of the people." Laymen will be admitted to such space as is not pre-empted by the clergy.

But the deliverance of a *concordia* cannot be the sole object of the meeting which Mr. BRYAN has called. There seems to be an accent of contention in his remark to a *World* reporter that "we have got to measure everything by the money there is in it, and have lost sight of the conscience or right or justice involved."

A St. Louis despatch, also printed in the *World*, corroborates curiously the theory that Mr. BRYAN is prepared to make a personal explanation and to renounce "the commercialistic, money spirit" in connection with wills, bequests, testaments and executor-legates. The Hon. MOSES CINCINNATUS WETMORE, the St. Louis anti-trust statesman, who has become a capitalist by selling out to trusts and starting plants for them to buy, is a bosom friend of Mr. BRYAN. Together they have hunted now the octopus and now the jack rabbit in Col. WETMORE'S preserves.

Col. WETMORE "has made a will leaving to the Democratic party a large sum of money, to be held as a permanent fund for the use of the party." The sum is said to be "not far from \$75,000," and the Colonel "will increase the amount if his worldly affairs prosper in the future as in the past," and they will if the trusts continue. He is a bachelor. If he has made a provision for the Democratic party, we may be sure that he has done something for Mr. BRYAN. Indeed, if Mr. BRYAN is the Democratic party, as he seems to believe, here is one bequest to him already.

Satisfied with Col. WETMORE'S generous forthrightness, has not Mr. BRYAN resolved to renounce his claim upon the estate of PHILIP S. BENNETT and invited the clergy and the laity to be the witnesses of his regret for having yielded, no doubt under the influence of Mr. BENNETT'S urgent solicitations, to the commercial spirit? Col. WETMORE will provide; and the widow can have her money, without contest. Thus one moral issue in a pending public question will be settled.

The Political Situation in Great Britain.

Not for nine years has the House of Commons witnessed a division of parties so nearly even as that which will be exhibited in the session now about to begin. It is already recognized on all sides that if the Balfour Government escape defeat it will owe a precarious retention of power to the Irish Nationalists, or, in other words, to the very men whose attempt to secure Home Rule for Ireland provoked the coalition between Conservatives and Liberal Unionists.

In the Parliament which assembled in 1892, and lasted for some three years, the Gladstonian Liberals and Irish Nationalists combined had a majority of forty. Small as it was the majority sufficed to pass the second Home Rule bill, and, perhaps, had Mr. GLADSTONE'S physical strength permitted him longer to occupy the post of leader, it would not have collapsed in 1895. The followers of Mr. GLADSTONE in the last stage of his career, however, constituted a more homogeneous body than that which Mr. BALFOUR can now hope to command. The 670 members of the House of Commons returned at the general election of September and October, 1900, were divided politically as follows: 334 Conservatives, 68 Liberal Unionists, 188 Liberals and 82 Nationalists. Obviously, the Ministerial majority at the outset was 134; in other words, a transfer of 68 votes from one side to the other would even at that time have forced the Government to resign.

The net outcome of the by-elections that have taken place since October, 1900, has been materially to decrease the ostensible strength of the Conservative-Liberal Unionist coalition, so that its majority would now be wiped out if about fifty votes were transferred from its ranks to the Opposition lobby. Since the last two by-elections—those at Gateshead and Norwich—nobody doubts that the Free Traders—a convenient term for those former supporters of the Balfour Government who are now determined to oppose its fiscal policy—will muster more than fifty votes.

It is believed, for instance, that of the Liberal Unionists at least three-fifths, or say forty, will side with the Duke of Devonshire in his determined resistance to Mr. BALFOUR'S programme of a retaliatory tariff; and it is certain that a similar stand will be taken by many Conservatives, headed by two ex-Chancellors of the Exchequer, and by a son of the late Lord Salisbury. Some well informed persons have computed the number of these Tory seceders at upward of eighty, but let us put it no higher than sixty. The total defection, therefore, from the Ministerial ranks

would be about a hundred, or quite enough to extinguish their nominal preponderance and substitute an adverse majority of about one hundred.

Evidently, the assistance of the eighty-two Irish-Nationalists will be indispensable if the Balfour Government is to live a week. With their assistance, if our figures are approximately correct, the Premier would have a majority of about sixty-four, but this majority would not survive a transfer of thirty-three votes from the Ministerial to the Opposition side. Such a transfer would almost certainly take place if, in his concessions to the Irish Nationalists, Mr. BALFOUR should offend some of the deeply rooted prejudices of his Conservative adherents. For example, although nothing is more reasonable than the request of the Irish Nationalists that the Government should endow a teaching university for Catholics in Ireland, there is no measure more likely to alienate certain elements among the Protestant supporters of the Ministry.

As for the bills which Mr. WYNDHAM has promised to introduce for the relief of agricultural laborers and the west of Ireland, we assume that these measures could be carried through the House of Commons without causing a split in the Ministerial ranks. It would be otherwise, however, with a proposal to give Ireland Home Rule, even in an attenuated form. A considerable section of his Conservative friends would unquestionably refuse to follow Mr. BALFOUR in that direction.

We must recognize, then, that Mr. BALFOUR will find it extremely difficult to avoid defeat in the House of Commons at the coming session. As he has never been supposed to have any taste for acrobatic performances, it is quite on the cards that he may either renounce the task of governing by resigning the post of Premier, or, by dissolving Parliament, may give his friends and the Free Traders a chance to test each other's strength at the ballot box.

The Justice and His Nephew.

The *Albany Evening Journal* propounds a theory in defence of Justice WARREN B. HOOKER in regard to one of the Dunkirk and Fredonia scandals affecting him. The defence is not official, but it is interesting as the first attempt of the kind since the collapse of the original policy of silence.

The *Journal* presents the case in this way: It is alleged that MAURICE J. HOOKER, nephew of the Justice, who was appointed to a position in the Fredonia Post Office, attended school during the whole or part of the time for which he was drawing pay from the Government.

If that is so, young HOOKER received pay for services he did not perform. But if that is so, not Justice HOOKER, but the Fredonia Postmaster who appointed the Justice's nephew is responsible for the fraud.

It is likewise alleged that the Postmaster who appointed Justice HOOKER'S nephew was a political creature of HOOKER'S, and that he owed his place to HOOKER'S influence and efforts. But, continues the *Albany Journal*, "if Postmaster TAYLOR was guilty of wrong or questionable action, Justice HOOKER cannot be held responsible for that. It is surely not an act of impropriety for a man in public office to recommend a person for a place. If the person recommended fails to honor the trust reposed in him, that is unfortunate and discreditable to him; but it cannot be made to reflect upon the integrity of the one who believed him fit for the position to which he was appointed."

Thus the circle of irresponsibility, as regards Justice HOOKER in connection with graft, is complete. This strikes us as an astonishing line of defence for a friendly newspaper to volunteer in behalf of a Justice of the Supreme Court of this State, accused of more or less direct interest in graft. It is true that Justice HOOKER may not have prepared it. He will undoubtedly answer in his own way the serious charges now before the State Bar Association.

Two Sections of the Pure Food Bill.

In the House Tuesday the Hon. CHAMP CLARK of Missouri protested against the haste with which the so-called Hepburn Pure Food bill was being "railroaded through." A bill, he said, "which is of the gravest importance, affecting the interest not only of every manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer in the land, but also of every consumer, was lumped in here yesterday and taken up to-day for immediate consideration, giving even the most industrious man no adequate time for investigation and reflection." The theory of the friends of the bill seems to be that as most persons want pure food, any bill for the purpose is good enough to pass, without reference to existing State legislation on the subject and without much concern as to the effect or even the Constitutionality of some provisions of the Hepburn bill.

Two sections of it are more than doubtful and require amendment. They are these:

"Section 8. That every person who manufactures or produces for shipment and delivery for transportation within the District of Columbia or any Territory, or who manufactures or produces for shipment or delivery for transportation from any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, or to any foreign country, any drug or article of food, and every person who exposes for sale or delivers to a purchaser in the District of Columbia any Territory or drug or article of food manufactured or produced within said District of Columbia or any Territory, or who exposes for sale or delivers for shipment any drug or article of food received from a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia other than the State, Territory or the District of Columbia in which he exposes for sale or delivers such drug or article of food, or any foreign country, shall furnish within business hours and upon demand and full payment of the selling price a sample of such drug or article of food to any person duly authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture to receive the same, and who shall apply to such manufacturer, producer or vendor, or person delivering to a purchaser, such drug or article of food for such sample for such use in sufficient quantity for the analysis of any such article or articles in his possession.

"Sec. 9. That any manufacturer, producer or dealer who refuses to comply, upon demand, with the requirements of Section 8 of this act shall be

guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not exceeding \$100, or imprisoned not exceeding one hundred days, or both."

The rest of Section 9 provides penalties for the violation of the act. Sections 8 and 9 in effect put it into the power of any Government inspector to make any merchant selling any article furnish him with a sample of that article. If analysis determines the article to be adulterated, he has been compelled to furnish evidence against himself, to be, in effect, in violation of the Constitution, a witness against himself in a criminal case. Dr. WILEY testified that as far as his experience went with the administration of the law relating to foreign foods, "I think there can be no difficulty in getting all the samples we want without such a section compelling the man to sell to convict himself, if necessary, because there are always ways to get those samples." So Sections 8 and 9 are unnecessary. Yet the House refused Mr. CLARK'S amendment to strike them out, and it rejected his amendment providing that no samples or information derived therefrom shall be used as testimony in a criminal case.

The lameness of Mr. HEPBURN'S defence of these sections appears in a colloquy between Mr. HEPBURN and Mr. CLARK. Mr. HEPBURN had said airily that there might never be a prosecution against the merchant who has been compelled to furnish samples. If there was, in the course of it the defendant's counsel could object to the introduction of that testimony. "In the mean time this man will aid science in determining whether a wrong is being perpetrated on society." He is to be forced to aid science; and at the proper time he can appeal to the Constitution. That little document, Mr. HEPBURN might have said, is to be suspended for the purposes of this bill.

"Mr. HEPBURN—There is no proceeding against him until later on; and then he may take advantage of the Constitutional provision.

"Mr. CLARK—Well, now, if all that is true, why did you not put it in this proposed statute?"

"Mr. HEPBURN—It is here.

"Mr. CLARK—No, sir; by the next section it is provided that if the merchant does not give up his sample to an inspector he shall be guilty of an offence.

"Mr. HEPBURN—Surely. He is compelled to do that. But how does that hurt him in a prosecution? Shall that man say that you want to use this matter against him, possibly in a criminal prosecution? He cannot be permitted to say that, because when the prosecution occurs and the prosecutor proposes to introduce this evidence, the Constitutional objection of incompetency will be raised and the evidence will be ruled out. So the man will not be harmed.

"Mr. CLARK—Now, Mr. Chairman, if that is true, then there is no sense in putting these sections in the bill.

"Mr. HEPBURN—Yes, sir. We want them in the bill for the purpose of enabling the Secretary, perhaps, to fix his standard—perhaps to find out that there is a ground for a prosecution that may be pending against this person, if other evidence not objectionable can be found against him.

"Mr. CLARK—And perhaps for the purpose of instituting this criminal proceeding.

"Mr. HEPBURN—No; not for that purpose, because it cannot be used for that.

"Mr. CLARK—Why can it not be?

"Mr. HEPBURN—Because, you say, the Constitution prohibits it.

"Mr. CLARK—Certainly; that is what I have said, and that is the reason why those two sections ought to go out of this bill.

"Mr. HEPBURN—The gentleman does not differentiate between the two proceedings—the proceeding to discover whether there is a deleterious substance in this food product, and subsequently, perhaps, the prosecution of the individual for a crime. The gentleman does not differentiate between those two things."

No differentiation can change the fact that the bill compels a man to furnish evidence which may be made the ground of a criminal prosecution. We say no nothing of the inadvisability to use no stronger word, of setting the Department of Agriculture as a spy upon the merchants of the country, or the right of every State to regulate its own bill of fare and stomach.

Governor Taft's Report.

The Hon. WILLIAM H. TAFT brings a sorry budget of news for the anti-Philippines. A popular assembly is to be called for the election of a body of commissioners to act with the Philippine Commission. The islands have never been so tranquil as they are now. By the middle of 1906, in Governor TAFT'S opinion, the natives may be able to conduct their own assembly as a part of the civil government. English and Belgian capitalists are ready to invest their money in railway and industrial enterprises in the islands. The people are ready to have them. A period of railway extension is looked for not only in Luzon, but throughout the other islands.

A thoroughly gloomy condition of affairs, all in all. The predictions of the anti-Philippines are unverified. The prophecies of greedy and heartless imperialism give promise of fulfillment. Six years of American occupancy of the Philippines have neither exterminated the natives in the islands nor pulled down the pillars of the Constitution on this continent.

Could anything be more discouraging?

Investigation or Inquest?

The House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries has reported favorably a bill providing for a commission to investigate the United States merchant marine and recommend to the next session of Congress appropriate legislation for its extension. The commission would consist of five members of the House of Representatives selected by the Speaker and five Senators named by the President pro tempore. Two members from each house would be chosen from the Democratic party. In its report the committee quotes the testimony of Mr. WINTHROP L. MARVIN of Boston, who used these words in urging the necessity of a comprehensive study of the condition of the shipping interests:

"It is investigation now, gentlemen; investigation to-day, or inquest to-morrow."

Mr. MARVIN'S opinion of the pressing necessity of Government action is based upon the fact, testified to by him, that "not since June, 1901, has the keel been laid in any American shipyard on either coast of the United States for one steel steamship designed and built for the purpose of foreign commerce." Following the Spanish war was con-

siderable activity in the building of ships, but now Mr. MARVIN is obliged to draw this doleful picture of the conditions prevailing throughout the country:

"There has never been a time in our history—not even in the Revolution, not even in the War of 1812, not even in the war between the States—when ocean shipbuilding in the United States was in such a condition of absolutely arrested development. The ocean tonnage of the United States registry for foreign commerce is smaller now by a few tons than it was in the year 1893. The proportion of American commerce carried in American ships has sunk from 12 per cent. in 1893 to 9 per cent. in 1903."

The normal decrease of the present fleet through wreck and wear and tear will soon deprive the nation of even the little part in its own carrying-trade it now has. Mr. MARVIN'S phrase, "investigation to-day or inquest to-morrow," is not too strong to describe the necessity for prompt and intelligent action.

The Course of the Air.

The Hon. JAMES M. ROBINSON, Representative in Congress of the Twelfth Indiana district, is a Philistine. He lives in a narrow, matter-of-fact world. He is wholly pedestrian and opposed to the use of wings. The visions of Science are invisible to his bleared eyes. In the House, Saturday, he attacked brutally the Langley airship, and the Administration for encouraging its brief but beautiful rise, fall and plunge into the Potomac. "I will charge directly to the officers of the Government, to its officials and its departments," he said, "a system of twisting the construction of our appropriations, a system of enlargement running wild, and in that charge I see that the War Department, yes, and that the head of the War Department, has permitted an expenditure for scientific purposes of over \$100,000 in a vain attempt to breathe life into an airship project which collapsed, and which, it was known, seems to me, by every sensible man, had no utility about it, and this they did without the sanction of Congress, by a misconstruction of an act."

Mr. ROBINSON became excited over "the scandal that LANGLEY'S airship has cost the Government over \$100,000, when it never had a grain of utility about it." He was sure that nobody on the Democratic side "would expend, even where the law has sanctioned, this money that was sunk in the bottom of the Potomac River by this aerial navigation, this Don Quixote scheme of Prof. LANGLEY."

Mr. ROBINSON is unjust. That airship may not have lingered long in the ether, but everybody admits that it plunged into the water energetically. Nor was it inutile. It demonstrated, to the general satisfaction if not to that of the Administration, that the laws of gravity still enforce themselves; that the airiest projects and machines must slump and smash, and that what goes up like a rocket will come down like a stick.

The experiment was ingenious. It had the simplicity of greatness; and Mr. ROBINSON'S assertion that "a professor, wandering in his dreams," hypnotized the Administration, is as superfluous as rude. This is a time of airships, of a bold and high-flying dreams. If a statesman tries to lift himself up by his bootstraps, to tread the azure depths of air, shall he not sympathize with other wanderers of the atmosphere? Aeronautes, be they scientific or political, are justified in cheering the flights and pitying the slumps of one another.

Again we say that Mr. ROBINSON is a Philistine.

Mr. BRYAN'S old followers in the South are speaking up, and they are speaking impatiently, if not disrespectfully. We quote now from the *Nashville American*:

"The Democratic party is sick and tired of Mr. BRYAN'S domineering tactics. It is not alone the Georgia Democrats and the moneyed interests of that State who are weary of him, but hundreds of thousands of the people who zealously followed his banner in 1896 and 1900 and that he should take his rights and the party's with him."

As if this were not enough, the same old follower of the peerless statesman of defeat goes on to say:

"The time has come for consigning him to political exile, and it is not the result of the St. Louis convention we are mightily mistaken. The time has come when those who stood by him four and eight years ago."

This is treason to the Democracy if Mr. BRYAN is right in believing that he and Democracy are one.

Complaint of the Rural Free Delivery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I wish to call your attention to the fact that the late postal reform (?) have caused in this part of the country. There is a misconception of the farmers' desire for speedy mail delivery. Most of them take one or two weekly papers, one or two monthly papers and receive two or three friendly letters a month. A few have more, but many less, so that it is a fair average. Most of them have the reading of their papers until Sunday, even if they have no other news. The telephone is used almost universally for business communications requiring haste. Every farmer is obliged to make daily visits to the creamery, to the school, to the store, to the village, to the edge and butter and buy groceries, and this gives every opportunity desired to send and receive mail. There are very few who care for more.

The country in which I live is bounded on the south by the Mississippi, along whose bank runs the Burlington. There is no other railroad in the country, nor for many miles adjoining it, except two spur roads on the northern side, which were run in on account of mines and smelters.

There is no public conveyance or means of travel anywhere, except by stages. Where there has been a stage off and free delivery routes substituted, there is no way of travel and no means of carrying freight of any kind. If the carriers were allowed to carry passengers and freight on the stages, there would be no trouble, but the Government regulations forbid this. Why they should do this I do not know, but it is completely impracticable. The rural free delivery is a failure. It is a failure because it is so high that few people can afford to buy them and have them sent by mail, and placing the same on paper-covered boxes at newspaper rates, as has been done, is a failure. In a section of country where there are no book stores and no printing houses, the rural free delivery is a failure. It is a failure because it is so high that few people can afford to buy them and have them sent by mail, and placing the same on paper-covered boxes at newspaper rates, as has been done, is a failure. 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